

Q1 [0047] Figure 2A-2D illustrate a device that is designed to accept single or multiple receptacles, to fill the receptacles and then to have the capacity to expel all of the receptacles without losing the integrity of the system relative to the surrounding ambient environment. In order to accomplish this an individual receptacle or a group of receptacles are prepackaged into an empty receptacle holder in the form of a receptacle package 40 or a receptacle magazine 40a (not shown). Although Figure 2C illustrates the receptacles being completely enclosed in the receptacle package 40, it is only necessary that an access into the receptacle be enclosed in the package 40 such that, when the package is opened, the receptacle may be filled through the exposed access. Once filled, the access may be reclosed. In the case where the package 40 includes several receptacles, access to individual receptacles may be closed off after each receptacle is filled. Additionally, Figures 2C and 2D shows the receptacles with screwed on stoppers in place. It should be noted that this illustrates only one of many possible types of stoppers that might be used and further illustrates only one of many way these stoppers may be affixed to the receptacles. Furthermore, it is not necessary that the supplied receptacles have stoppers fixed in place; receptacles may be supplied in the opened condition as well.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, paragraph [0062], with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q2 [0062] The receptacle conveyance system 50 is illustrated in Figures 2A and 2B. In general terms, the system captures the unfilled receptacle 51 from staging clip assembly 80 at the opening of the injection port 30, moves the unfilled receptacle 51 up to the stopper clasp assembly 140 where the stopper 53, if present, is removed. Receptacle conveyance system 50 then moves the open empty receptacle to the opening 6 of supply 5 where it is filled. After being filled, the receptacle 51a is brought back up to be restoppered by the stopper clasp assembly 140 before receptacle conveyance system 50 moves the filled, stoppered receptacle 51a back down and over to the ejection port 170. There the receptacle clasp 100 disengages the receptacle 51a, allowing it to slip down into ejection port 170. If the receptacle 51a is stoppered, the ejector rod tip 160a may engage the top of the stopper 53 before, during or after the receptacle clasp 100 releases the receptacle 51a into the ejection port 170. In any case, the ejector rod 160 can be used to help manipulate the receptacle 51a down through the ejection port 170 into a receptacle tube sack assembly 190 (if employed) and out of the device 1. If tube sacks are used, after the filled receptacle 51a clears the bottom of the ejection port assembly, a seal or closure 188 may be formed along the tube wall 193 using a variety of devices for sealing or closing 189, thereby cutting off communication between environment in the sealed or closed portion of the tube wall 193 containing filled receptacle 51a and the internal

Q2 cavity environment of the main housing 2. At the same time, the integrity of the environment around the filled receptacle 51a within the section of tube wall 193 and the integrity of the environment within the main housing 2, is maintained both separate and isolated from that of the outside ambient environment. A detailed description of the operation of the conveyance system 50 follows.

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**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, paragraph [0066], with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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Q3 [0066] Clasp arm 102a is mounted directly onto the base of manipulator rod 101 and has a rear extension. Linear bearing arm 102b houses linear bearing 104 which is mounted on subassembly alignment rod 105. Alignment rod 105 is fixed onto stopper clasp assembly 140. This arrangement permits receptacle clasp assembly 100 to slide freely up and down subassembly alignment rod 105, independent of vertically fixed stopper clasp assembly 140 but which cause the two assemblies to be in locked rotational position relative to each other so that, as receptacle clasp assembly 100 is rotated, stopper clasp assembly 140 rotates by the same amount. As a result, any receptacle 51 or stopper 53 held by either always maintains their relative rotational alignment, regardless of position.

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**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, paragraph [0069], with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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Q4 [0069] Captured receptacle 51 with stopper 53 in place can be raised vertically so that stopper 53 is engaged and captured by stopper clasp assembly

140 by raising handle 101a vertically. Stopper clasp assembly 140 includes clasp body 121, clasp gear 121a, main gear 121b, grip rods 141a-141d, grip sleeves 145a-145d, cam 133 with lobe 139 and its bore 139a and lobe 131 with its bore 131a, upper pinion 122a and lower pinion 122b. The grip rods 141a-141d are attached to clasp body 121, are slightly tapered and may be tension mounted so as to receive the stopper 53 and hold it firmly as it is forced up between the rods on top of the receptacle 51. As with receptacle clasp assembly 100, these rods may include grip sleeves 145a-145d to assist in tightly securing stopper 53 when it is engaged. Clasp gear 121a is nonrotatingly fixed to clasp body 121 by lower pinion 122b. The Clasp body 121, clasp gear 121a, grip rods 141a-141d and sleeves 145a-145d are all attached as one rotatable element cam 133 by means of upper pinion 122a positioned in bore 131a of lobe 131 of cam 133. Bore 137 of cam 133 is mounted rotationally free in recess 138 of lower extension 19. Subassembly alignment rod 105 is fixed into bore 139a of lobe 139 of cam 133. As described earlier, fixing the position of subassembly alignment rod 105 on cam 133 forces receptacle clasp assembly 100 to remain in fixed rotational alignment with stopper clasp assembly 140 attached to cam 133. Main gear 121b is fixed to the wall 2b of internal cavity 2a of main housing 2. With cover plate 3 in place, main gear 121b is fixed in the same horizontal plane as clasp gear 121a so that the two always remain meshed. If handle 101a is rotated, receptacle clasp assembly 100 and stopper clasp assembly 140 both rotate about manipulator rod 101. Because clasp body 121 and its fixed parts

are also fixed to clasp gear 121a which is meshed with main gear 121b, besides causing receptacle clasp assembly 100 and stopper clasp assembly 140 to rotate, turning handle 101a will also cause clasp gear 121a and clasp body 121 and its associated fixed parts to spin on their own axis about upper pinion 122a. With receptacle 51 captured in receptacle clasp assembly 100 and stopper 53 captured in stopper clasp assembly 140, rotating handle 101a in one direction will cause a threaded stopper 53 to unscrew from the receptacle being held fixed on its own axis in the receptacle clasp assembly 100 while rotating handle 101a in the other direction would cause it to thread back on to the receptacle 51 or 51a. In this way stoppers 53 may be removed and reattached to receptacles 51 or 51a. Spring loaded clasps in combination with the rotational motion of either the stopper 53 or the receptacle 51 or 51a relative to the other in combination with applied vertical pressure is the commonly used method for opening stopper-receptacle combinations, even if they are friction tight and not held by threads.

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**Please replace the heading on page 20, before paragraph [0076] with the following heading:**

Tube Sacks or Filled Receptacle Holder:

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, paragraph [0076], with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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**[0076]** Figures 2A-2D illustrates a device that is designed to allow filled receptacles 51a to be removed from the device 1 as single unit receptacles, multiple receptacles as a single group or multiple receptacles as individual

Q5

as receptacles, all without losing the integrity of the environment around the receptacle (or receptacles) and without losing the integrity of the environment within the device 1. This may be accomplished by attaching a length of empty blind ended sealed tubing constructed similarly to the receptacle package already described (except without any receptacles), allowing access to be gained into one end of the blind tube, the end with the septum, by the same coring means described earlier for the receptacle package, thereby opening the interior to receive filled receptacles as they are ejected through the ejection port 170. Although illustrated in Figures 2A-2D as a soft sided tubular structure, like the receptacle package, the tube sack or filled receptacle holder may also be constructed as a semi-ridged or ridged container or magazine. Also like the receptacle package, rather than a septum, the access into the structure might also be structured in other ways, such as a valve.

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**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, paragraph [0077], with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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all [0077] As the first filled receptacle 51a is fed out of the ejection port 170 into the receptacle tube sack assembly 190, whether rolled, folded or pleated, the first length of tube wall 193 that has been sealed at the distal end to form a blind length of tube sack, the blind end tube sack 191, can be fed out. After the portion of the blind end tube sack 191 with the filled receptacle extends out beyond the lower conical portion 177c, the sack may be sealed in single or multiple seal fashion, segregating the internal environment of the housing from

that within the length of blind end tube sack 191 now containing filled receptacle 51a to form a compartment. Before the length of tube wall 193 is sealed; however, an agent may be added into the length of blind end tube sack 191 now containing filled receptacle 51a to protect, stabilize, clean, sterilize, neutralize or otherwise decontaminate or treat the material still on the outside of the receptacle 51a and any residing within the blind end tube sack 191. With the filled receptacle 51a in the blind end tube sack 191 a seal or closure 188 may then be made by a device for sealing or closing 189. This device could be any appropriate means, including twisting, crimping, heat sealing, sonicating, gluing, tying-off, zipping, clamping or any other pressure, temperature, chemical, physical or biological device. Furthermore, the seal or closure 189 could consist of single or multiple seals or closures formed in between sections of tube wall used to form a blind end tube sack 191 to receive the next filled receptacle 51a. It should be noted here as stated elsewhere in this disclosure that agents may be added into the sections of tube wall between seals or closures or into the section where a seal or closure will be made in order to promote cleaning, sterilizing, neutralizing, decontaminating or otherwise treating the material in that area so that when the tube wall is cut through to separate the distal sealed or closed section of tube wall containing the filled receptacle from the section of tube wall ending in a blind end tube section still attached to the device, material or residue won't be released into the outside ambient environment.

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